

MARCH 2010

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We encourage you to utilize the District and Middle School Web sites to obtain information. By going to the district site at www.windhamsd.org, you can link to all of the Windham Schools.

Important Dates

Please continue to check the school calendar for changes:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WindhamMS>

- March 2 —M2M Executive Meeting 7AM
- March 3—M2M Connection
- March 3— Earth Shuttle Chaperones 6:30 PM
- March 3—Earth Shuttle 7:30 PM
- March 5—Mid Terms Issued
- March 5—Dance 7-9 PM
- March 9—No School— Teacher Workshop
- March 12—Medieval Banquet—Grade 7
- March 12—Ski Trip—Pat's Peak
- March 15—Medieval Banquet—Snow Date
- March 18— Curriculum Fair 6-8 PM
- March 20—Ski Trip— Loon Mountain
- March 25-27 WMS Drama Club Presentation
"Aladdin Jr."
- March 29—8th Grade Swing Dance—7-8:30 PM
- April 1—8th Grade Mandatory Parent
Information Night— DC Trip 7:30 PM
- April 2—End of Third Quarter

CURRICULUM FAIR

Please join us on Wednesday, March 18th from 6 – 8 P.M. for the Windham Middle School Curriculum Fair. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see student projects, presentations, and musical entertainment reflecting the curriculum for all subjects and all grade levels at our school. Also, of course, our wonderful restaurant, **Le Café Rosa**, will be open with delicious samples of French and Spanish food.

PTA

Remember it is never too late to join Windham PTA. Check out the website www.windhampta.org to download membership forms and find links to lots of information.

6TH GRADE NEWS

In language arts, our students have been actively involved in the writing process through various types of writing such as "How – To" poems and journaling. Next, they will continue developing their skills in completing the Immigration Research Paper.

In reading, our sixth graders have also been strengthening their writing skills and reading comprehension strategies by examining point of view and figurative language through their exciting literature unit of Flipped!

In social studies, our students have been intently focused on the geography and culture of Southwest Asia and North Africa. They have participated in a wide variety of activities including mapping, graphing, and completing country posters. Next, our students will engage in an exciting unit on North America. In this unit, students will examine the relationships between the United States and Canada as they compare and contrast their culture to that of our friendly neighbors.

The first phase of the Bits and Pieces Unit has just been completed in math. Next, our sixth graders will enter "Shapes and Designs: Two-Dimensional Geometry." During this unit, the students will be enhancing their understanding and skills surrounding the characteristics of different shapes and the relationships among them.

In pre – algebra, students finished their "Integers and Properties of Addition & Multiplication" unit. The students are now "Stretching and Shrinking" their way through understanding similarity. During this unit, students will learn the mathematical meaning of similarity and explore the properties of similar figures.

The sixth graders have been shaken up a bit with their study of Earthquakes and Volcanoes in science classes! They've participated in some really exciting investigations through their "Fault" and "Sea Floor Spreading" labs! As a culminating activity to their learning, the students will participate in the "Shake, Rattle and Roll" project by creating structures able to withstand a "Sixth-Grade Earthquake!"

Congratulations to all the students who received Outstanding Student Awards for the third quarter. To all our sixth graders, continue your good efforts, keep up the good work, and end your sixth grade year strong!

7TH GRADE NEWS

In March, we will be conducting literature circles in reading. In groups, students will read the same book and conduct periodic student-led discussions about it. The culminating activity for this unit will be a project.

Language arts classes will complete compare/contrast essays on medieval medicine; this topic will reinforce the social studies content this month. In addition, we will continue our work with Classical Roots vocabulary, and we will begin our review of the parts of speech.

Students are beginning to get excited now about our study of Medieval Europe. They have chosen an individual or team project to be working on at home, which will supplement what we will be learning in class about the time period. Our studies will culminate with our exciting Medieval Day celebration on Friday, March 12th. As many probably know, that will include a Medieval banquet with authentic entertainment of the time, followed by a jousting tournament among all the manors (home rooms). Full information about the project and the Medieval Day has been sent home with students and is posted on Ms. Beaver's Moodle page. I'm sure this year's celebration will prove to be as fun a learning experience as it has been in past years.

Science classes will be starting to explore genetics and the science of heredity. This is always a favorite of many students and provokes a lot of interesting discussion.

Spanish students researched the history of Valentine's Day and how Spanish speaking countries celebrate the holiday. Then they created posters of Valentine's Day words and phrases in Spanish with the English translation.

EARTH SHUTTLE NEWS

Earth Shuttle meeting Wednesday, March 3rd at
7:30PM in the cafe

Chaperone meeting at 6:30PM in room 219 before our
meeting in the cafe

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

It has been a busy third quarter for eighth grade language arts students. Team Washington students have completed a unit on "The Power of Persuasion". Ms. Roy's classes just finished their persuasive research projects resulting in persuasive essays with parenthetical documentation. Students also delivered speeches on their topics in class. Mrs. Morrow's classes will begin the research phase of this project the week after winter vacation. Students in Mrs. McCorkle's classes are currently completing a unit on poetry. This unit will be completed during the month of May in other eighth grade classes. At the end of the month, Judith Black will give a presentation to all language arts classes portraying a Holocaust survivor.

Eighth grade social studies is engaged in World War I. Students are learning about trench warfare, weapons technology, the war on the home front, and the cause and effects of the war. Following WWI, students will be briefly exploring the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression before diving into World War II.

Students in pre-algebra will be concluding their solving equations unit by translating algebraic expressions into equations to solve. Students will also begin a patterns unit. Algebra students are working on their first portfolio artifact through a project entitled "Let's Make A Deal." Students will investigate comparable companies to decide which one is a better deal for any interested consumer. Using systems of linear equations, students will interpret the solution to the system that models their company information and analyze their findings.

Science students have completed the first half of the year which dealt with specific concepts in chemistry. In March, students begin working on concepts in the area of physics. We will begin with a discussion of significant figures, precision versus accuracy, and percent error. We will then quickly move into units on thermal energy and motion.

GUIDANCE NEWS

M₂M is scheduled for **March 3rd**. The Executives will meet at 7:00am in the Café and the training will take place during Advisory. The Theme this month will be Fitness.

Fitness Boot Camp (Spring Break) will be running another session starting on March 11 and running until April 15th. The cost is \$30.00 and bus transportation will be provided to Flex Appeal. Pick-up will be at 4 pm. Please contact Mrs. Lichtmann or Mrs. Rawley at 893-2636.

DC Final Payment

A reminder to all students going to Washington, DC, final payments are due March 19.

are still on sale for \$25.00. There will not be any available for purchase after April 23rd, 2009. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase your Yearbook.

The next Yearbook Committee meeting will be held on March 18th in the Computer Lab from 2:15- 4:00.